

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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UNCLAS HELSINKI 0853

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, FI
SUBJECT: FINNISH POSITION ON UN TROOPS FOR LEBANON

1. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT FINLAND DOES NOT ENVISAGE PARTICIPATING IN THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN LEBANON. THE LINE TAKEN IS THAT THE UN HAS NOT REQUESTED TROOPS FROM FINLAND AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO AT THIS TIME.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KORHONEN TOLD THE PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND THAT FINLAND HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY REQUEST FOR TROOPS AND THAT THE UN HAS THE INITIATIVE IN THE MATTER. POLITICAL DEPARTMENT CHIEF TORNUDD STATED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE TROOPS WOULD BE REQUESTED. MAJOR GENERAL PAJUNEN OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AGREED WITH THIS VIEW, NOTING THAT THE FINNISH BATTALION IN THE SINAI IS THE FURTHEST FROM LEBANON OF OF ALL UN FORCES THERE, ALTHOUGH HE DID ESTIMATE THAT FINLAND COULD SEND AN ADDITIONAL UNIT OF 500 WITHIN TWO WEEKS IF NECESSARY. IN EITHER CASE, HE POINTED OUT, A FINNISH GOVERNMENT DECISION IS REQUIRED. THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S UN
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SURVEILLANCE OFFICE TOLD THE PRESS THAT FINLAND HAS NOT OFFERED ANY PEACEKEEPING TROOPS.

3. THE PRESS HAS ALSO MENTIONED THE FACT THAT THE UN IS STILL IN ARREARS ON REIMBURSEMENT TO FINLAND FOR FINNISH UN FORCES ON CYPRUS, A FACT EXPECTED TO DISCOURAGE THE FINNS FROM UNDERTAKING FURTHER

UN OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. TORNUDD WAS CAREFUL
TO DISTINGUSIH BETWEEN LEBANON AND NAMIBIA, TELLING
THE PRESS THAT FINLAND IS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE
TO SEND TROOPS TO NAMIBIA IF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IS
REACHED THERE.

RIDGEAY

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Message Attributes

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